

Name of the Library: Miami-Dade Public Library
Address of Central Library: 101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130
(305) 375-2665

Management: Raymond Santiago
Library Director



Mr. Santiago became Library Director in 1998. In 2003 Library Journal named him Librarian of the Year. In 2005 the Public Library Association awarded Mr. Santiago the Charlie Robinson Award. This award recognizes a public library director for implementation of innovative change.

Number of Branch Libraries 40 Branch Libraries and 2 Bookmobiles

Books and Materials Expenditures per capita: \$3.83 per capita. The Materials Budget for FY04/05 is \$7,555,000.

Public Computers per 1,000 population: Miami-Dade Public Library has 800 public workstations - 0.40 computer workstations per 1,000 population. By the end of FY04/05 the library expects 1,100 public computer workstations.

Staff per 1,000 population: 0.28 per 1,000 population. There are 545 members of the staff of the Miami-Dade Public Library.

Maintenance budget per square foot: \$10.57 per square foot. The Maintenance Budget is \$6,873,300 for FY 04/05. This includes in-house payroll, benefits, supplies and equipment and contracted services for major renovations.

Circulation per capita: 2.73 per capita. Circulation for FY 03/04 was 5,388,679

Population Served: 1,970,525

Public Computer Workstations: 800

Volumes in collection: 4,215,101

Registered Borrowers: 730,692

Items Borrowed: 7,404,945 per year

Library Visitors: 6,119,050 per year

Annual Budget: \$84,436,000

Facilities: The **Doral Branch Library** was dedicated September 28, 2000. The Country Walk Branch Library was dedicated August 28, 2001, followed by the Hialeah Gardens Branch on February 13, 2002. After an absence of a decade, bookmobile service returned to outlying suburban neighborhoods on April 25, 2002. In 2003, new branches opened in Naranja on May 1st and in Tamiami on May 29th and Lakes of the Meadow in September. In 2004, libraries opened in Concord and Palm Springs North. Plans are now underway to open additional libraries in California Club, Elizabeth Virrick Park in Coconut Grove, Sunset Drive and in Palmetto Bay. In 2005, the Library System will open a new Regional Library on Miami Beach, a new branch in Sunny Isles Beach, and the Miami-Dade Public Library will move its South Shore and Fairlawn Branches to new facilities.

The **Civic Center Station Porta-Kiosk** is the world's first library to be built on an elevated transit system. This pre-fab structure of 160 square feet opened to the public on January 15, 1992 at the Civic Center Metrorail station. Commuters on their way to work and school are able to stop in before catching their trains to make selections from a collection of five-thousand items which includes best sellers, paperback books, videos, audiobooks, cassettes, CDs, and children's books. The Porta-Kiosk also has an online public catalog which allows patrons to request and reserve books, view other databases, and surf the Internet. The Porta-Kiosk is open 40 hours a week during the morning and afternoon rush hours.



The **Main Library** has a number of special departments that contain extensive collections in their subject areas. The Florida Department has information on the Sunshine State, with special emphasis on the South Florida region. In addition to rare books and documents, the Florida Department houses the Gleason Waite Romer collection of 17,500 photographic negatives and prints recording Miami's history from pioneer days through 1950.

Technology: A federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant of \$400,000 was secured to build two state-of-the-art computer training laboratories. In addition, the Miami-Dade Public Library has devices that range from simple hand-held magnifying glasses to closed captioned video decoders and complex computers that convert print into synthesized speech or Braille. Library materials for persons with visual, hearing, or speech impairments and their families include books, periodicals, closed-captioned videos for persons who are hearing impaired and descriptive videos for persons who are visually impaired. The library's on-line catalog may be searched by subject, title or keyword for items in all formats.

Programming: The Miami-Dade Public Library has a Saturday tutoring program in all branches. In the first six months the program served 34,000 students.

The **Country Walk Early Childhood Public Library** is a 1,000 square-foot mini-library that offers materials such as children's books, adult books, parenting books, cassettes and videos for checkout. Parents and children also have access to all of the circulating materials within the library system through the Library's computerized catalog. Programs offered at this branch focus on baby, toddler, and preschool story times. Computers with software aimed at developing early literacy skills such as matching, color identification, word recognition and preschool games are available.

The **Hispanic** branch serves an immediate population that is 90% Hispanic. The collection of 60,000 items is 80% Spanish with emphasis on literature, history and linguistics. The juvenile collection focuses on student needs and literacy in Spanish and English. The adult collection includes special clipping and pamphlet files focusing on Hispanic culture. The Spanish reference collection is particularly strong and is used by students, general researchers and scholars from throughout the community and the United States. Dictionaries and encyclopedias represent Latin American and European Hispanic culture. The Cuban collection includes a number of rare books.

The **Hispanic** branch also emphasizes English as a second language with books, audiobooks, videocassettes and language instruction materials. Over fifty magazines in English and Spanish are available as well as a bilingual video and book/cassette collection. Free programs include language and citizenship classes, social security information services and a variety of cultural presentations for all ages. The Hispanic Branch has access to the Internet and other computer programs in English and Spanish. The bilingual staff has close ties with the community.

The **Model City** branch is the largest and busiest branch within the inner-city area. In addition to its attractive decor, it houses a spacious meeting room, two literacy computers to enhance reading and writing comprehension, two multimedia computers with word-processing capabilities, the online catalog, Internet, and databases for newspapers and magazines. The **Model City Branch Library** is part of a governmental complex known as the Joseph Caleb Community Complex which houses an auto tag agency, driver's license office, court services, a Human Resource Services office, County Commissioner and State Senator offices, a daycare center and a large auditorium for social and entertainment events.

The **North Dade Regional Library** has a large programming room and two conference rooms for family programs and special events. The Children's Story Theater provides comfortable seating for young patrons who attend many of the special programs. Puppet shows, story times and creative dramatics are regular features in this Children's department.

Architecture: The **Main Library** shares its home in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Miami Art Museum. The buildings are grouped around a central plaza where people sit, eat, read and participate in ongoing activities for all ages.



Governance: The Miami-Dade County Commission governs the Miami-Dade library district. The Miami-Dade County Commission appoints members to the Miami-Dade Public Library Advisory Board. The Advisory Board provides advice to the Miami-Dade County Commission on matters pertaining to the plans and policies of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. Members of the Advisory Board are appointed to serve three year terms.

Collection: The Miami-Dade library system is a depository for Federal, State of Florida, and local municipal government publications. Special collections include African-American History and Culture, Floridiana (including the Romer photograph collection), Genealogy (with a complete set of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1920), Merrett Stierheim Urban Affairs Collection (public administration), and Children's Literature. The System also has an extensive Spanish language collection and purchases materials in a wide variety of other languages.

Staffing and Personnel: Soon after Raymond Santiago became director in 1998, he got the library staff to develop an ambitious Strategic Plan for 2000–2004 entitled, Seizing a Better Future. The staff used their own comprehensive study of community needs and the book *Planning for Results: A Public Library Transformation Process* (ALA, 1998) to develop the first Miami-Dade Public Library community-driven plan.

Miami-Dade Public Library runs an intern and staff training program. Many members of the staff are studying for their Masters of Library Science degrees. Anyone who works at Miami-Dade Public Library can enter library school and become an intern at a salary that is a little below the salary of an entry level librarian. When the individual receives 18 credits, they receive a salary increase. There is another salary increase when the individual receives the MLS degree.

The Miami-Dade Public Library scholarship fund raised about \$10,000 for nine staffers to attend school. Miami-Dade County provides reimbursement for about half of library school tuition. Miami-Dade Public Library gives enrolled students a flexible work schedule to accommodate their class schedule.

Fundraising: The Miami-Dade Public Library Foundation, Inc. was founded in January 2002 to enhance the services and programs of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. The mission of the Foundation is to serve as the fundraising arm of the library primarily for the endowment of major capital projects, and major educational, cultural community projects, as specifically approved by the library and the Foundation.

Volunteers: The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library was incorporated in 1974 as a non-profit organization seeking to create support for the county library system. Friends' activities focus on promoting library excellence through advocacy, volunteer opportunities and outreach programming.